

Congress passed legislation, which was subsequently signed into law on July 22, 2010.

News reports can be misleading as it relates to citizens receiving unemployment insurance. Reports state that this legislation restores benefits for up to 99 weeks. This is not true in Virginia and the reason for that is tied to the total unemployment rate (TUR). The various unemployment insurance programs available to Virginia are as follows:

| | | |
|-------|---|-------------------------|
| 1) | Regular Unemployment Insurance | = up to 26 weeks |
| 2) | Extended Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Tier I | = up to 20 weeks |
| 3) | EUC Tier II | = up to 14 weeks |
| 4) | EUC Tier III (for states with a TUR of 6.0%) | = up to 13 weeks |
| 5) | <u>State Extended Benefits (EB)</u> | <u>= up to 13 weeks</u> |
| Total | | = up to 86 weeks |

Note: EUC Tier IV applies to states with a TUR of 8.5% providing up to an additional 13 weeks of benefits therefore raising the total to 99 weeks being reported.

This new legislation authorizes:

A) An individual to now receive compensation under the next EUC tier in sequence as they exhaust eligibility in a prior program. It also allows us to apply eligibility retroactively. (Ex: Claimant exhausted Tier I with Benefits Week Ending 6-19-10. Tier II would be effective 6-20-10.)

B) The Federal government to reimburse states 100% of the benefit costs for the State EB programs. (Please note: The fact that the total unemployment rate for Virginia has dropped below 6.5% means that Virginia has "triggered off" of the EB program and we are unable to pay EB benefits beyond the week ending May 14, 2011.)

C) An individual to remain on their EUC claim when they would normally be required to draw benefits from a new regular unemployment insurance claim. This is applicable to claims with a Benefit Year Beginning effective date of 7-25-10 or later and with a weekly benefit amount that is \$100 (or 25%) less than the EUC weekly benefit amount.

Additional important facts:

- This legislation did not reinstate the Federal Additional Compensation. (FAC provided an additional \$25.00 per week on all claims.) This means that initial claims with an effective date of 5-30-10 and later will not receive this money.
- This legislation does not have any provision for those individuals who have exhausted all benefits under the programs noted above.

In the meantime, please continue with your job search and keep records of those contacts.

If you have been claiming weeks, but not receiving payment while waiting for passage of the extension, please continue claiming those weeks.

Please ensure that you notify the agency promptly of any address changes that may affect your receipt of communications from the VEC.